

reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spencer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,619,689) in view of Hirai et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,945,185).

Claims 1-3, 6-7, and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khoudari et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/01858847) in view of Matsuoka et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0138377).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are moot with respect to Claims 3 and 4, as Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate similar subject matter as now-cancelled Claims 3 and 4. Specifically, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to recite a method of making an air-bag including blow molding a selected plastics material comprising ABS and PC to form an air-bag utilizing a mould, whereby the mould is such that the moulded air-bag has at least one indented annular groove. The Examiner, in rejecting Claims 3 and 4, relied primarily on the combination of Spencer and Hirai and, more specifically, on Figures 14 and 17-19 of Spencer. See

the Office Action mailed November 3, 2009 at Pages 3 and 6. Given the foregoing, the following remarks are directed primarily to Spencer.

Spencer discloses an inflatable knee bolster (232) including a front wall (238) and a body portion (240). See Spencer at Col. 4, Ins. 51-56, and Figure 14. The body portion (240) includes perimeter profile elements (259) as well as interior rib profile elements (269). See Spencer at Col. 5, Ins. 53-67, and Figures 14 and 17.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither the perimeter profile elements (259) nor the interior rib profile elements (269) constitute an "annular groove," as recited by independent Claim 1. First, Applicants note that the term "groove" is generally understood to be a "long, narrow cut or indentation in a surface." See <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/groove> (accessed: January 04, 2010). Second, Applicants note that the term "annular" is generally understood to mean an element "having the form of a ring." <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/annular> (accessed: January 04, 2010). Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that neither the perimeter profile elements (259) nor the interior rib profile elements (269) can be considered an annular groove, as neither the perimeter profile elements (259) nor the interior rib profile elements (269) are in the form of a ring. For example, while the interior rib profile elements (269) are formed into a surface of the body portion (240), the interior rib profile elements (269) have a generally rectangular shape and do not cooperate to form a ring. Given the foregoing definitions of "annular" and "groove," Applicants respectfully submit that neither the perimeter profile elements (259) nor the interior rib profile elements (269) can fairly be characterized as being annular grooves.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1, as well as Claims 2, 5-7, and 9-11, dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM

New Claim 12 is added for consideration. Because new Claim 12 depends from independent Claim 1, which is believed to be in condition for allowance in light of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 12 is likewise in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

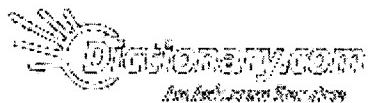

Stephen T. Olson, Reg. No. 36,626
Matthew H. Szalach, Reg. 53,665

Dated: January 19, 2010

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groove [groov] Show IPA **noun, verb, grooved, groov·ing.**

[Use groove in a Sentence](#)

-noun

1. a long, narrow cut or indentation in a surface, as the cut in a board to receive the tongue of another board (**tongue-and-groove joint**), a furrow, or a natural indentation on an organism.
2. the track or channel of a phonograph record for the needle or stylus.
3. a fixed routine: *to get into a groove.*
4. *Printing.* the furrow at the bottom of a piece of type.
5. *Slang.* an enjoyable time or experience.

-verb (used with object)

6. to cut a groove in; furrow.
7. *Slang.*
 - a. to appreciate and enjoy.
 - b. to please immensely.

-verb (used without object)

8. *Slang.*
 - a. to take great pleasure; enjoy oneself: *He was grooving on the music.*
 - b. to get along or interact well.
9. to fix in a groove.
10. **in the groove,** *Slang.*
 - a. in perfect functioning order.
 - b. in the popular fashion; up-to-date: *If you want to be in the groove this summer, you'll need a bikini.*

Origin:

1350–1400; ME *grofe, groof* mining shaft; c. MD *groeve*, D *groef*, G *Grube* pit, ditch; akin to GRAVE¹.

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Related forms:

grooveless, adjective

groovelike, adjective

groover, noun

Synonyms:

3. rut, habit, pattern.

Dictionary.com Unabridged

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v. *tr.*

1. To cut a groove or grooves in.

2. *Baseball* To throw (a pitch) over the middle of home plate, where it is likely to be hit.

v. *intr. Slang*

1.
 - a. To take great pleasure or satisfaction; enjoy oneself: *just sitting around, grooving on the music.*
 - b. To be affected with pleasurable excitement.

2. To react or interact harmoniously.

[Middle English *groof*, *mining shaft*, probably from Middle Dutch *groeve*, *ditch*; see *ghrebh-* in Indo-European roots.]

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Slang Dictionary

groove

1. n.
 something pleasant or cool. (See also in the groove.) : *This day has been a real groove.*

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Word Origin & History

groove

c.1400, from O.N. *grod* "pit," or M.Du. *groeve* "furrow, ditch," from P.Gmc. **grobo* (cf. O.N. *grof* "brook, river bed," O.H.G. *gruoba* "ditch," Goth. *groba* "pit, cave," O.E. *græf* "ditch"), related to grave (n.). Sense of "long, narrow channel or furrow" is 1659. Meaning "spiral cut in a phonograph record" is from 1902. Fig. sense of "routine" is from 1842, often depreciatory at first, "a rut." Adj. *groovy* is 1853 in lit. sense of "of a groove;" 1937 in slang sense of "excellent," from jazz slang phrase *in the groove* (1932) "performing well (without grandstanding)." As teen slang for "wonderful," it dates from 1944; popularized 1960s, out of currency by 1980.

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Medical Dictionary

Main Entry: **groove**

Pronunciation: 'grüv

Function: noun

: a long narrow depression occurring naturally on the surface of an organism or an anatomical part

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Medical Dictionary

groove (gr&oomacr;v)

n.

A rut, groove, or narrow depression or channel in a surface.

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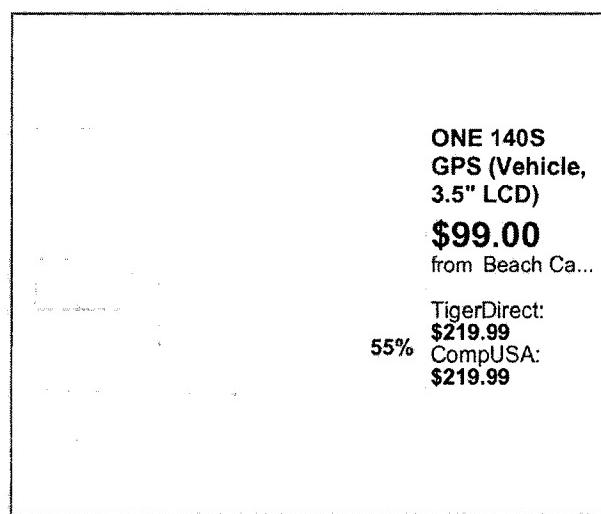
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see [in the groove](#).

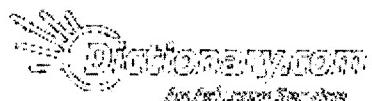
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an·nu·lar ⓘ [an-yuh-lər] ⓘ Show IPA

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-adjective

1. having the form of a ring.
2. (of a carpenter's nail) having a series of concentric grooves to improve holding power.

Origin:

1565–75; < L *annulāris*, equiv. to *annul(us)* ring (var. of *ānulus*) + -*āris* -AR¹

Nearby Words

annuity unit
 annuity-certain
 annul
annular
 annular cataract
 annular clock
 annular eclipse

Related forms:

an·nu·lar·i·ty, noun
an·nu·lar·ly, adverb

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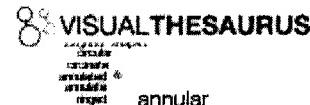
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an·nu·lar (ān'yə-lər) [?](#)

adj. Shaped like or forming a ring.

[Latin *ānulāris*, from *ānulus*, *ring*; see **annulus**.]**an'nu·lar'i·ty** (-lār'ē-tē) n., **an'nu·lar·ly** adv.

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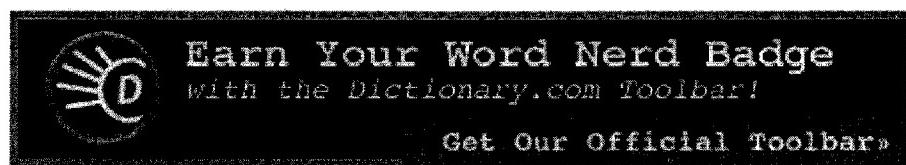
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Word Origin & History

annular

"ring-shaped," 1571, from L. *annularis*, from *annulus*, dim. of *anus* "ring" (see anus). An annular eclipse (1727) is one in which the dark body of the moon is smaller than the disk of the sun, so that at the height of it the sun appears as a ring of light.

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Medical Dictionary

Main Entry: **an·nu·lar**

Pronunciation: 'an-y&-l&r

Function: *adjective*

: of, relating to, or forming a ring annular diaphragm of a microscope>

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annular an·nu·lar (ān'yə-lər)*adj.*

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annular (ān'yə-lər) [Pronunciation Key](#)

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